time when a considerable fall in our numbers was expected in the near future. We must note that no mention is made of American aid and its cessation in 1952. As to the advantages and disadvantages of a growing, a stationary, or a decreasing population, the report concludes " that for Great Britain to-day (1949) the balance of economic advantage is strongly in favour of stationary as compared with increasing numbers." But our numbers continued to increase.

Though somewhat ignored, the skeleton still remains in the cupboard. When American aid has gone, can we still import what we need to feed our huge population ? Throughout the report the Committee insufficiently stress the vital necessity of growing at home as much food as possible.

Towards the end of the report it almost looks as if the Committee had some hankering after a reduction in our numbers. Thus, in nearly the last paragraph, there is this statement : " While a smaller population would, as such, be on the whole advantageous, the *process* of decline would be difficult." Certainly, difficult but desirable !

We might put before ourselves the ideal of an eventual, stationary, life-table population for Britain somewhere about 40 million, with an expectation of life at birth of, say, 69 years, and a yearly number of births of about 600,000, and the same number of deaths. And we should then be a good deal happier than we are at present.

C. F. ARDEN-CLOSE.

Population Studies, March 1950. Supplement on the cultural assimilation of immigrants, by ten authors. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-118.

Breathes there a man, with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd,
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd
From wandering on a foreign strand!
(SCOTT, " Lay of the Last Minstrel.")

THOSE who remain in foreign lands are discussed in the work under review. There is no suggestion that their souls are dead, though it seems likely that they often suffer from internal conflicts. It is generally accepted that nationhood is something vastly superior to parochialism or clannishness. Yet it is also often said that national prides and sovereignties are the chief obstacle to a decent organization of the world as a whole. Here is a collection of studies all relevant to the question " What makes a nation ? " and so, by extension, to the question " What might make a unified world ? "

In an introduction D. V. Glass thanks U.N.E.S.C.O. for having fostered the conference and the publication of its proceedings. He also emphasizes the need for scientific studies of immigrants, because their status is in danger of being decided by prejudice.

There are two papers exclusively about methods of research. One is a joint work by Max Lacroix and Edith Adams, of the Population Division of the United Nations, in which they draw attention to the nature and diversity of the statistics available for the study of assimilation, and to the large variety of indices of assimilation which might conceivably be constructed from them. This paper is not intended for the entertainment of the general public ; it is a guide to research workers who are looking for raw material. Here they will find, in neat tabular form, a survey of the types of classification employed by fifty-one countries in their censuses. M. Bunle, formerly director of the Statistique Général de la France, provides a programme of inquiry, including a set of thirty-seven questions for use by those who interview immigrants. Of fuller interest are those papers in which the value of methods is made plain by the result obtained from them.

There are several studies of countries where the immigrants form a larger proportion of the population than has been experienced in Britain since the Norman Conquest : Georges Mauco writes about France ; F. Savorgnan about Boston and Buenos Aires ; Georgio Mortara about Brazil ; Julius Isaac about Western Germany ; and Roberto Bachi about Israel. In the two last-named countries immigration has recently been one of

the major political problems. In Schleswig-Holstein in October 1948 one-third of the population were German immigrants who had been expelled from their former homes in the east, in accordance with a decision of the Potsdam Conference of 1945.

The facts presented are abundant and miscellaneous. Only a few interesting morsels can be picked out for this review. Isaac (p. 34) shows that German refugees who have come from the east into Hesse and Schleswig-Holstein have intermarried with Germans long resident there at a rate rather less than one would expect if there had been no bias against immigrants; the probabilities involved might with advantage have been stated more explicitly. The reviewer estimates that the actual rate was half or more of the random expectation, showing that the bias was not strong in those circumstances. Mortara studied the survival of the languages brought by immigrants into competition with the Portuguese language of Brazil, and he found in general that "the persistence of the mother tongue among immigrant settlers, from one generation to the next, is particularly strong among Germans and noticeably weak among Spaniards." Marked differences were, however, noticed by Mortara between the different parts of Brazil; German and Italian have almost died out by the third generation in São Paulo, whereas in Rio Grande del Sud they persist longer. Bachi (p. 51) found that in Palestine in 1944 "There was almost no intermarriage between Jews, Moslems, Christians and Druses." Bachi studied intermarriage in considerable detail by way of Benini's "index of attraction." The explanation of this index, offered in the text, is not sufficiently clear, but references are given in a footnote.

Out of such particular studies of different lands it is to be hoped that general statements applicable anywhere may be induced. Such generalities are, however, not emphasized after the manner of a text-book. There is no chorus of agreement, not even about the definition of cultural assimilation. Yet there are some statements that look as though they might be general, which are affirmed by some, and not denied by any, of the ten authors. Thus it seems to be generally agreed that occupation, language, religion and marriage are of importance in connection with assimilation. Savorgnan (p. 67) states that "culture and wealth are two factors which accelerate the process of amalgamation, while ignorance and poverty retard it." When there are plenty of immigrants who have all come from the same nation they sometimes draw together, forming communities isolated within the host nation. Such have been German communities in Brazil, or the Poles in Northern France (Bunle, p. 8) between the two world wars.

L. F. RICHARDSON.

Connell, K. H. *The Population of Ireland 1750-1845.* Oxford, 1950. The Clarendon Press. Pp. 293. Price 18s.

IN this well-written book the author examines critically what he terms the "traditional" estimates of the population of Ireland prior to the first census of 1831. He then proceeds to the discussion of the explanation of the rapid acceleration of growth of the population before the famine and emigrations of the nineteenth century. This is ground which has been covered before, but never so completely or in so scholarly a fashion. By wide reading of contemporary writers and from the relatively scanty official reports the author builds up a very strong case in support of his opinion that the growth of population in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries has in the past been over-estimated, although the increase was probably considerably greater than that occurring in England during the comparable period.

In an excellent study of the social and medical history of the period the author examines the complicated interplay of factors which contributed to population growth. In a country where so high a proportion of the population were landless peasants at the mercy of their landlords for a variety of reasons, the system of land tenure (determined entirely in the interest of maximum rent returns over short periods) made it well-